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CHEVRON
University of Waterloo (Ontario, Canada)
7 May 1981

Opposition growing to aid for CIA gangsters

The fight to block a move by the UW administration to give a computer program, the C370 compiler, to the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, went to the Board of Governors meeting on April 7. Outside the meeting a demonstration by UW students and faculty took place to oppose this move. The demonstration was organized by the Canadian People's Defence Committee.

Inside the meeting the student representatives on the Board of Governors presented a motion prepared by UW science student Steve Harvey to prohibit any aid to the CIA or Soviet KGB. The motion was defeated, with only three student reps, Jone Kama, Alex Kostiw and Joe MacDonald, supporting it.

This issue arose last summer when Steve Harvey was working for the computer centre on a revision of the C370 compiler which is used on large IBM system computers. Harvey learned that Joseph Hinds of the CIA's Data Processing Research division had written Romney White of the UW Computing Services on December 4, 1979, requesting the program when it was ready.

Harvey strongly objected to having this program go to aid the criminal subversive activities of the CIA, and on

August 25 he published an open letter to the university community advocating that the CIA's request be denied. He also made copies of Hinds' letter available to the media.

In response to this action Paul Dirksen, Director of Computing Services, said that UW had established no ethical criteria on which to deny such a request and hence the program would be available to the CIA. Bruce Uttley, Harvey's immediate supervisor for the programming work, said openly that the program should be sent to the CIA. He also said it would not be the first one sent to that organization from UW.

On August 29, less than one week after Harvey's open letter was posted on bulletin boards across campus, his work contract was terminated by the computer centre and his access to a computer account was cut off. Dirksen later said the computer centre would have a hard time finding a job for Harvey to do "because he wants to pick and choose where the programs go to. He does not want to work on something that is going to the CIA."

On September 17 Harvey was evicted from his office in the Math and Computer building, and when he protested by picketing the university near the main entrance to campus two days later carrying his office contents in a box, he was stopped by UW security police and told he needed a permit from the bookings office to demonstrate on campus (an outright lie!). He was then taken to the security office and grilled about his relations with the Anti-Imperialist Alliance and other organizations.

Harvey carried on his struggle with a petition against aid to the CIA and KGB, and on February 3 he took his case to the Board of Governors meeting for the first time and presented a motion in the form of a document entitled "Towards a Code of Ethics in the University's Contractual Relationships." This was the same motion which was presented on April 7.

The motion put forward four demands:

1) That the University of Waterloo refuse to co-operate with the CIA or KGB because of their violations of human rights such as interference in the internal affairs of other nations, contrary to the charter of the United Nations.

2) That the University and its affiliates refuse to aid or abet the activities of the secret police of any nation by refusing all prospective contracts or requests from them or from any of their known conduits.

3) That an ad hoc committee be struck to propose various policy amendments that would better ensure that University facilities are not used to undermine human rights.

4) That such a committee should be open to submissions from any member of the public, and that its meetings be open to the public.

At the Feb. 3 meeting no sponsor could be found for the motion, so the Board merely received it as "infor-

mation". At that meeting D. P. Robertson, Director of Academic Services, said that the C370 compiler would indeed be given to the CIA when it was completed. The April 7 decision of the Board confirmed this policy.

The Canadian People's Defence Committee is continuing its work to block any form of aid to the CIA or KGB, including the C370 compiler. In a statement handed out at the demonstration the CPDC pointed out that the universities are centres of military and related research which is used by the rich of Canada and the United States for the suppression of people at home and abroad.

For example, the aid given by UW to the CIA includes more than one computer program. Steve Harvey uncovered a direct link between

UW and the CIA via an organization known as "Share Inc." whose head offices are in Chicago. This company is set up to facilitate the exchange of information about the latest developments in computer software. The division manager for the Basic Systems Division of "Share" is UW's Romney White, and a project manager in his division working on the VM/370 system is David Farnham of the CIA, Washington.

The CPDC is demanding the withdrawal of UW from "Share" and is calling on the UW students and faculty to support this demand and oppose any other activities on the campus which assist the Canadian state or that of the U.S. to suppress the rights of the people anywhere.